

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /088 W
----- 121193 /13

R 140530Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1545

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IR MU YS
SUBJECT: IRANIAN AIR FORCE ACTIVITY IN OMAN

REF: (A) TEHRAN 12239, (B) MUSCAT 1511 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH EMBASSY DCM TELLS US AN IRANIAN AIR FORCE LIAISON OFFICER ARRIVED AT SEEB AIRPORT EARLY THIS WEEK, APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO OMANI REQUEST. SAF HOPES HIS PRESENCE WILL BRING ABOUT SOME DEGREE OF COORDINATION SO THAT SAF AND SOAF CAN GET AN IDEA WHAT IRANIAN AIR ARM IS UP TO OVER DHOFAR AND PDRY BORDER AREA. IF THIS PROVES TRUE, BRITISH EMOFF THOUGHT IT MIGHT BRING SOME IMPROVEMENT IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS GROWING MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OMAN AND IRAN OVER PHANTOM INCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH. SAME SOURCE ADDED THAT BRITISH OFFICERS IN SAF NOW BELIEVE IRANIAN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE ALONG BORDER IS TAKING PLACE ALMOST DAILY, BUT PILOTS ARE TAKING CARE TO STAY AT EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDE.

2. THOUGH WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT OMANIS STILL ARE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE IRANIAN RETALIATION AGAINST PDRY FOR NOV 24 PHANTOM SHOOT-DOWN, THEY MUST HAVE RELAXED THEIR NEVOUSNESS A BIT, FOR MOST LEADING LIGHTS OF OMANI SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT ARE SPENDING DEC 11-19 IN LONDON. THIS INCLUDES TIM LANDON, GEN. PERKINS, DEFENSE DIRECTOR GENERAL BROWNING AND FONMIN QAIS ZAWAWI. (AT LEAST ONE PURPOSE LONDON GATHERING IS FOR LATEST IN LONG SERIES OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORP. OVER JAGUAR-
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RAPIER AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE.)

3. HAVE LEARNED THAT CSAF GEN. PERKINS PLANS ANOTHER TRIP
TO IRAN IN LAST WEEK DECEMBER TO CONSULT WITH IRANIAN MILITARY
COUNTERPARTS.
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